

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 CFR §121(c), the claim listing, including the text of the claims, will serve to replace all prior versions of the claims, in the application.

Please amend claims 7, 13 and 19, and cancel claims 11, 17 and 24, as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6. (Cancelled)

1 7. (Currently Amended) A helical implant, comprising a core surrounded by helical threads,
2 with the inclined flanks of said threads bearing a continuum of micro-patterns increasing exposed
3 surface area of said helical thread, the micro-patterns comprising one or more recesses and
4 protrusions, and the micro-patterns having continuous and repeated arcuate cross-sectional outlines
5 throughout the entire length of the micro-patterns, two adjacent said recesses being separated by a
6 distance on an order of 150 μ m.

Claims 8-12. (Cancelled)

1 13. (Currently Amended) A helical implant, comprising a core surrounded by helical threads
2 bearing inclined flanks disformed with a continuum of micro-patterns increasing exposed surface
3 area of said implant by extending along said flanks and around said core, with the micro-patterns

4 comprising one or more recesses and protrusions, and ~~each one of~~ the recesses and protrusions
5 having ~~[[an]]~~ substantially identical arcuate cross-sectional ~~outline~~ outlines throughout the entire
6 length of the micro-patterns, two adjacent said recesses being separated by a distance on an order of
7 150 μ m.

Claims 14-18. (Cancelled)

1 19. (Currently Amended) A helical implant, comprising:
2 a cylindrical core;
3 a screw thread surrounding the cylindrical core, with the screw thread comprising crests,
4 roots and flanks connecting the crests and the bottoms of the screw thread, and the flanks comprising
5 inclined planes surrounding the cylindrical core; and
6 at least one micro-pattern formed on the flanks of the screw thread, and extending helically
7 in a circumferential direction around the cylindrical core, with said micro-pattern comprising at least
8 one groove and at least one ridge having identical arcuate outlines and opened at one side when
9 viewed on any cross sectional plane of the screw thread, and said cross sectional plane containing
10 the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical core, the distance between the neighboring micro-patterns
11 being approximately 150 μ m.

Claims 20-24. (Cancelled)